

KAWO Executive Committee Minutes

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 – 7:00 PM on Zoom

Present:

Jessie Davis, President
Jason Ballew, Vice President
Margo Rebar, Treasurer
Gail Simmons, Secretary
Ilse Gebhard (Monarch Watch)
Kathy McGoff (Hospitality Chair)
Beth Bradburn (At-large)
Jessica Hagen (At-large)
Ann Fraser (Program Chair)
Mel Luna (Publications Chair, At-large)
Noel Ocen (Outreach and Education Chair, At-large)
Mike Klug (Past President, Wild for Monarchs Chair)
Dave Wendling (Site Visit Chair)
Paul Olexia (Past President, Community Projects Chair)
Kim Patrie (Plant Sale and Plant Exchange Committee)

Absent:

None

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by President Jessie Davis
2. Minutes of the April 19, 2023 EC meeting were moved by Kathy, seconded by Noel.
Approved unanimously.
3. Margo was not yet on the Zoom when the Treasurer's Report was discussed; the May report will need to be approved at the June meeting. It was noted that donations made on behalf of an organization should be listed in the report by the name of the organization, not by the name of the individual who signs the check.
4. **Timely Business**
 - a. Jason and Kim presented many details of the plans for the upcoming Plant Sale on May 20. It was agreed that following the sale there will be a close look at the breakdown of expenses and revenues from the sale to make decisions about next year's sale. It was agreed that if there are unsold plants at the end of the sale they will be disposed of as follows:
 - i. Sale to volunteers.
 - ii. Sale to board members and ad-hoc committees

- iii. Gift to KAWO chairs of various projects such as Ilse & Paul for their project (Monarch Committee & Committee Projects).
 - iv. Gift to non-profit organizations with native gardens that are open to the public.
 - v. Gift to organizations that maintain native gardens/areas that are open to the public, should they be interested. Example: Victoria Bakery, People's Food Coop, Confection With Convictions.
- b. Plans for the upcoming 30th Anniversary Plant Exchange on June 4 were discussed. It was agreed that any plants left over after the Exchange will be gifted as follows:
- i. Gift to volunteers.
 - ii. Gift to KAWO chairs of various projects such as Ilse & Paul for their project (Monarch Committee & Committee Projects).
 - iii. Gift to board members and ad-hoc committees.
 - iv. Gift to non-profit organizations with native gardens that are open to the public.
 - v. Gift to organizations that maintain native gardens/areas that are open to the public, should they be interested. Example: Victoria Bakery, People's Food Coop, Confection With Convictions.

5. New Business

- a. Formalizing a Donation: Via email, Ilse made a motion that KAWO make a donation of \$100 for the KNC Heronwood Field Station to purchase plants for their project along the river edge at Merrill Park. Gail 2nd the motion. Members who responded voted aye unanimously. The email vote was affirmed.
- b. EC structure and procedure were reviewed.
- c. Financial procedures for spending by committees were reviewed.

6. Old Business

- a. Honoraria for Member Speakers. (Gail) – see the existing COI statement.

Proposed new language for the COI statement is below, with added language in ALL CAPS (changes proposed by Ann Fraser highlighted in yellow):

- i. Not every financial interest creates an actionable conflict of interest. A financial interest is a Conflict of Interest only if the board or designated committee decides that a conflict exists. IN GENERAL, MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF KAWO WHO PRESENT PROGRAMS AS PART OF THE REGULAR PROGRAM COMMITTEE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE THE CUSTOMARY HONORARIA. THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE WILL HIGHLIGHT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ANY PLANS TO FEATURE A CHAPTER MEMBER OR OFFICER.

7. Committee Reports/Ad Hoc (Part II)

- a. **Membership (Jason)** We are up to 241 members, with 17 new members joining since our last meeting. We have had 60 new members join year-to-date. It was agreed that, to satisfy reporting requirements to National about members vs. non-members in attendance, we will begin taking written attendance at programs.
- b. **Program Committee (Ann)** – No Report
- c. **Outreach and Education (Noel)** -- Requests have quieted since Earth Day. We are scheduled to table at two events on May 20 : The KAWO Plant Sale (Beth, Gail and Quyen); and the Asylum Lake Event (Dave Wendling and Noel). The Asylum Lake event begins at 12 noon (setup 11am) and runs through 4pm. Dave will do setup and stay 'til 2. I will arrive at 1:30 and stay 'til closing. We could use another volunteer to work with Dave from about 11:30 to 2:00. Please give me a call if you can assist. 269-370-8335. The only other tabling events scheduled at this time are the June 4th (30th Anniversary Celebration) and Sept. 9th plant exchanges. Volunteers are needed for both events.
- d. **Monarch Group.** Mike tabled at the Hastings Rotary Pollinator Initiative meeting. Mike, Carol and Noel tabled at the Kalamazoo Poetry Festival and provided literature, terracotta pots, Monarda and Milkweed seeds. The Gilmore crew, Carol, Cindy, Laura and Joyce did some spring cleanup on the gardens. Thanks to Joyce, Laura, Margo and Cindy, and Carol and Mike we now have 1200 Milkweed plants transplanted and looking like they are going to be ready for the upcoming events in May. We will be tabling at the Hastings Earth Day event along with Noel and Gail. The Oshtemo library has been added to our list of locations for our Monarch Wild display boxes of literature and Milkweed seed. We now have material at seven sites. All sites will be restocked with material in the coming weeks.
- e. **Hospitality (Kathleen)** Programs at Portage Public Library will have prepackaged individual snacks along with coffee, tea and water. Please no outside food. 30th Plant Exchange Celebration will have all meat, all cheese, pinwheels, vegetables and fruit & cubed cheese deli trays from Hardings. Hospitality ask for \$400.00 to cover deli trays, potato rolls, condiments and other miscellaneous items. The committee agreed by emails. Half sheet cake and quarter sheet cake will be from Bert's Bakery. Hospitality ask \$150.00 for 2 cakes. The committee agreed by emails. \$550.00 has been budgeted for food. Your Hostess, Ruth Small is providing three bean salad. Others are encouraged to bring food.
- f. **Community Projects (Paul)** As a follow up to our last workday, Community Projects has a workday this Friday, May 12 to plant approximately 100 plugs of cup plant and prairie dock that were donated by Mike and Carol Klug. Swamp rose mallow will be added to the Axtell Creek site. We soon will be getting these and additional plants, as they become available, for other projects to continue with our schedule.

- g. Site Visit (Dave) Site Visit report. I have received 7 requests for site visits so far and completed three. All new members. I will be looking for others to help with site visits. I would like someone who is willing to help organize the site visit requests and to assign volunteers to do the visits. Dave will be meeting with volunteers for his committee on May 18 to organize training and decide who will schedule visits.
8. Kathy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Paul. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

WildOnes Natural Landscapers, Ltd Mission:

WildOnes: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities.

KAWO Vision:

To restore and sustain biodiversity through education and the practice of landscaping with native plants.